

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 8, 10-13, 21, 23, 33, 34, 39, 42, 43 and 51 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of these claims. Allowable claim 12 has been incorporated into independent claim 1, and allowable claim 21 has been incorporated into independent claim 16. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 16, as well as their dependent claims, should be in condition for allowance. The remaining claims 1-7, 9, 14-20, 22, 24-32, 35-38, 40, 41, 44-50 and 52-56 were rejected.

By this Reply and Amendment, claims 1, 16, 22 and 26 have been amended, claims 12, 21 and 36 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 1-11, 13-20, 22-35 and 37-56 remain pending in the present application. All claim amendments are fully supported throughout the description and figures of the specification. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, claim 22 was objected to as lacking proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, claim 22 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner and the objection should be overcome.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 16, 17, 19, 22, 26-32, 40, 41, 45-50 and 52-56 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by the Arutunoff reference, US Patent No.: 2,674,194. This rejection is respectfully traversed, however certain claim amendments have been made as explained in greater detail below.

Independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended to incorporate the language of allowable claims 12 and 21, respectively. Accordingly, the rejection is no longer applicable to these claims or dependent claims 2, 7, 9, 17, 19 and 22.

With respect to amended, independent claim 26, the Arutunoff reference fails to disclose elements of the amended claim. For example, the Arutunoff reference does not disclose or suggest "providing the motive unit with a plurality of oil communication holes deployed at an

angle with respect to the longitudinal axis such that the angle of the plurality of oil communication holes corresponds with an angle at which the motive unit is positioned relative to vertical during filling of the motive unit with oil." The Arutunoff reference provides no teaching or suggestion as to providing oil communication holes oriented to correspond with an angle at which the motive unit is positioned to facilitate filling. Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 26 and dependent claims 27-32 should be withdrawn.

With respect to independent claim 41, the Arutunoff reference is relied on as disclosing "the motive unit has a journal bearing (67) with a replaceable wear sleeve (68)." (See Office Action, page 3). However, the Arutunoff reference actually describes component 67 as a stationary, frusto-conical, space filler ring and component 68 as a complementary filler collar arranged concentrically within ring 67 and with "a running clearance as best seen in Figure 3." (See column 5, lines 38-44). Accordingly, space exists between components 67 and 68, and the components do not function as a journal bearing with a replaceable sleeve. The Arutunoff reference describes the primary purpose of ring 67 and collar 68 as "to fill the major portion of the space which would otherwise require an added volume of lubricating and insulating liquid..." (see column 5, lines 47-50). Therefore, the Arutunoff reference does not disclose a motive unit having a journal bearing disposed about a drive shaft "wherein the journal bearing has a replaceable sleeve" as recited in independent claim 41. Accordingly, the rejection of the independent claim 41 and dependent claim 45 should be withdrawn.

With respect to independent claim 46, the Arutunoff reference is relied on as disclosing "bubble sump (40) which contains a dedicated volume (48) which is capable of entrapping released gases..." (See Office Action, page 3). However, component 40 does not function as a bubble sump. As described in the Arutunoff reference:

"lubricating and protecting liquid is poured into the funnel-like mouth 50 in the head 36 from whence it runs down along the space surrounding the shaft extension 24 within the zone 48 of protecting element 40, completely filling the motor casing and the collapsible cylinder 43 through the radial openings 49. During this operation the vent openings 51 and 52 permit the escape of air which is displaced along the shaft." (See column 6, lines 14-24).

Thus, zone 48 is filled with the lubricating and protecting liquid. The region surrounding collapsible cylinder 43 is a sealed off space to accommodate expansion of collapsible cylinder

43. The Arutunoff reference does not disclose or suggest "a bubble sump to maintain any released gases in a dedicated volume" as recited in independent claim 46. Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 46 and dependent claims 48-50 should be withdrawn.

With respect to independent claim 52, the Arutunoff reference is again relied on as disclosing a bubble sump for entrapping released gases. However, as described above with reference to independent claim 46, the Arutunoff reference does not disclose or suggest "creating the bubble sump with a dedicated volume sufficient to collect gas that would otherwise interfere with lubrication of internal components" as recited in independent claim 52. Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 52 and dependent claims 53-56 should be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 3, 4, 5 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over the Arutunoff reference in view of the Proctor reference, US Patent No.: 6,868,912. Claims 3, 4 and 5 ultimately depend from amended, independent claim 1, and claim 18 depends from amended, independent claim 16. As described above, independent claims 1 and 16 have been placed into allowable form, and the subject dependent claims also should be in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 6, 20, 37 and 38 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over the Arutunoff reference in view of the Shilman reference, RU2162272C1. Claims 6 and 20 depend from claims 1 and 16, respectively. Accordingly, those claims are patentable over the subject references for the reasons provided above with respect to the independent claims. The Russian reference does not obviate the deficiencies of disclosure in the Arutunoff reference.

Russian patent No. 2162272 describes a combined electric motor 1 having a head 2 with a cable entry. The cable entry has a plug 5 whose body 6 is fastened to the head 2 at a plug receptacle 8. Within receptacle 8, a relief valve is constructed via a separate spring-loaded stem 16 or via a plug 17 placed in an opening 18. However, neither of these arrangements discloses or suggests using the entire "terminal block" as a movable member between "a sealed position and an open position" that enables fluid communication, as recited in independent claim 37. The

movable terminal block is unique relative to the teachings of both the Arutunoff reference and the Russian reference, because it greatly simplifies construction of the cable connection as opposed to using separate check valves and corresponding flow channels as described in Russian reference. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 37 and 38 should be withdrawn.

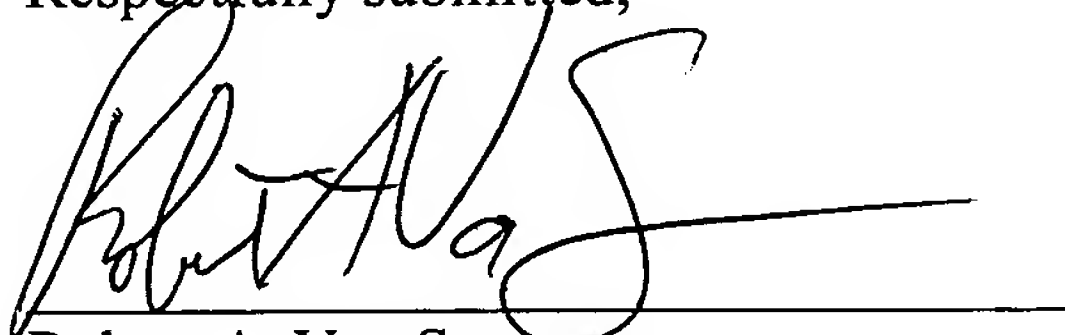
In the Office Action, claims 14, 24 and 35 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over the Arutunoff reference in view of the Berry reference, US Patent No.: 6,595,295. Claim 14 directly depends from amended, independent claim 1; claim 24 directly depends from amended, independent claim 16; and claim 35 directly depends from amended, independent claim 26. These dependent claims are patentable over the cited references for the reasons provided above with respect to their corresponding independent claims. The Berry reference provides no additional disclosure that would obviate the deficiencies of the Arutunoff reference. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 15, 25 and 36 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over the Arutunoff reference in view of the Scarsdale reference, US Patent No.: 6,307,290. Claim 36 has been canceled without prejudice. Claim 15 directly depends from amended, independent claim 1; and claim 25 directly depends from amended, independent claim 16. These dependent claims are patentable over the cited references for the reasons provided above with respect to their corresponding independent claims. The Scarsdale reference provides no additional disclosure that would obviate the deficiencies of the Arutunoff reference. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claim 44 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over the Arutunoff reference. Claim 44 directly depends from amended, independent claim 41 and is patentable over the Arutunoff reference for the reasons provided above with respect to independent claim 41. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 44 should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the pending claims are believed patentable over the cited references. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert A. Van Someren', written over a horizontal line.

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